WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 30th AUGUST, 2001

UN Report on Human Development

*541. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :
SHRI P.PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the major findings of the latest Human Development Report released some time back by the United Nations, regarding growth and development achieved by various countries;

(b) the position assigned to India in realising higher standards of life and greater human welfare; and

(c) the measures to be adopted to take care of the sectors where India has lagged behind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) The Human Development Report (HDR) 2001, released recently by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates that in most countries of the world, indices of Human Development have been improving over the past twenty five years. However, in some twenty countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, they have been deteriorating.

This year's Report assesses the progress made by countries towards targets set in the UN Millennium Declaration goals for poverty eradication. Just 11 developing countries, including India are on track to meet the goal of having poverty by 2015, but 70 countries are far behind or slipping.

The Report is dedicated to the theme "Making New Technologies Work for Human Development". It terms technology as a tool for development and notes with concern the disparities in the spread of technology both between

*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the 30th August, 2001 was adjourned due to passing away of Shri G. K. Moopanar, a sitting Members. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Friday, the 31st August, 2001.

and within countries. The Report ranks countries by the level of diffusion of technology in each country as per a Technology Achievement Index (TAI). The Report recognises India as home to a world class technology hub in Bangalore and classifies it among dynamic adopters.

India's rank in the Human Development Index (HDI) is 115 among 162 countries and territories ranked by the UNDP's HDR for 2001. The ranks of our South Asian neighbours on the HDI are : Bangladesh - 132, Bhutan - 130, Maldives - 77, Nepal - 129, Pakistan - 127 and Sri Lanka - 81.

India has also improved its Human Poverty Index (HPI) rank from 58 out of 85 countries in HDR 2000 to 55 out of 90 in HDR 2001. The ranks of some of our South Asian neighbours in HPI are Bangladesh - 73, Maldives - 25, Nepal - 77, Pakistan - 65 and Sri Lanka-31.

India's HDI value has improved from 0.406 in 1975 to 0.510 in 1990 and 0.571 in 1999. The bulk of the improvement in the HDI in the 1990s has been due to the improvements in the income component of the index. Social development indicators did also improve during the last few years but their rate of improvement has not kept pace with that of GDP per capita expressed in terms of Purchasing Power Parity. This is especially true of life expectancy, infant mortality rate, adult literacy and the combined enrolment ratio.

The Social sector has received greater thrust in the last few years, especially elementary education and family welfare. They will also continue to be among the priority sectors during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Industrial Relations Bill

†*542 SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring a new Industrial Relations Bill after effecting amendments in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to promote friendly relations between workers and employers;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments;

(c) by when the new Bill is likely to be introduced; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.